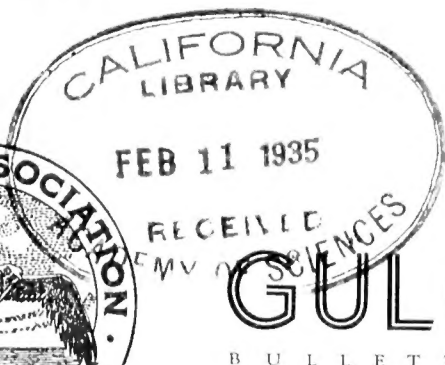


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# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

BULLETIN

VOLUME 17

SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY, 1935

NUMBER 2

## December, 1934, Field Trip

Although the weather was threatening, nine members and nine guests met on Sunday morning, December 16, 1934, on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, for our monthly field trip. Notwithstanding occasional showers we continued our walk until about one o'clock under the leadership of Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, obtaining some very interesting observations and enjoying the very instructive comments of our leader.

There was no especially outstanding observation unless it was that of two Varied Thrushes in Faculty Glade, the first time any of us had seen this species during the present season.

The list of twenty-five species recorded is as follows: California Gull, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe; California Jay; Plain Titmouse; Bush-tit; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Wren-tit; Western Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrushes; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Pipit; Audubon Warbler; Brewer Blackbird; Purple Finch; Willow Goldfinch; Spotted and Brown Towhees; Junco; Golden-crowned, Nuttall and Song Sparrows.

Members attending: Mesdames Cummings, Kelly; Misses Danz, McConnell, White; Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Messrs. Bunker, Power. Guests: Mrs. Persons, Misses Kennedy, Twohy; Scouts Darms, Fisher, Kirker, Lippmann, Nelson, and Refhuss.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.



## Report of the President for the Year 1934

It becomes now my pleasant duty to review the activities of the Association for the year 1934, and it can be fairly said that the public interest in birds and bird life has notably increased due to the activities of such organizations as ours, aided generously by newspaper articles, all of which have a very definite beneficial influence.

Our present membership is 125. During the year we lost sixteen members and acquired three new members. One life member, Thomas W. Johnson, died during the year. Unfortunately, general conditions have made it difficult for some members to continue upon our active membership roll; nevertheless, we can look with satisfaction upon our achievements. The attendance at our meetings averaged forty-seven during the year.

This organization is indebted to Mrs. H. P. Bracelin for her untiring and successful efforts in securing distinguished speakers who made very interesting and instructive addresses. The Association extends its sincere appreciation to these speakers who contributed so much to our meetings.

Financially, we have been able to pay our bills and have a fair balance on hand, as the report of our treasurer, Mrs. Stephens, shows.

The week-day field trips were discontinued because of the lack of interest shown during the six trips taken. An average of five members and two guests attended, observing on an average thirty species per trip.

The organization is very fortunate, indeed, to have Mrs. Stephens acting as the editor of "The Gull" in addition to performing her duties as treasurer. Mrs.

Stephens has given generously of her time and energy and has rendered a distinct service to the Association. It is with pleasure that I can state that we have received many favorable comments on "The Gull" from various sources and that a considerable number of articles have been reprinted from it in other publications.

Your Association, during the early part of this year, conceived the idea of submitting to the Public Utilities Commission for consideration a proposal for the creation of a bird sanctuary at Lake Merced. The hearing was had and it is gratifying to state that the presentation was well received. The matter is still before the Commission and it would be well for our organization to continue its efforts to have the north lake utilized as a bird sanctuary.

In closing I would like to recommend for your consideration the following:

1. The creation of the bird sanctuary at Lake Merced.
2. The purchase of a projection machine and the building up of a collection of pictures of birds to be used on proper occasions.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Webb, President.



### Report of Field Trips for 1934

The following report covers the results of the monthly field trips taken by the Association during the year 1934. One trip each was taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, Alameda and Bay Farm Island and University of California campus, Berkeley, all in Alameda County; Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County; Burlingame, San Mateo County; Point Bonita and Tennessee Cove, Marin County; Land's End, Cliff House and Golden Gate Park, City and County of San Francisco. An extra trip was taken to McCoy's Ranch, Livermore, Alameda County. Two trips were taken to each of the following: Ross, Marin County and Lake Merced, City and County of San Francisco.

Species totaling 165 were noted, with an average of forty-five species per trip. The largest list, fifty-five in number, was noted on our walk to Tennessee Cove in August; Point Bonita was second with fifty-three in number, trip taken in March; and Ross, third, with fifty-one, trip taken in June.

Christmas census added a new bird to the Association life-list, making it now total 237 species. The Hutchins Goose on South Lake, Golden Gate Park, was the new species. The American Egret was observed for the second time, the first being recorded in 1930; Baird Sandpiper seen again, the first being in 1927. The Bittern was entirely missing from our records this year, this being the first time it was missing.

Fifty-nine members attended the various trips during the year, the average per trip being fifteen. The most popular with the members was the trip to Point Bonita in March, which brought out twenty-eight members; Lake Merritt, in January, was second with twenty-four and Ross, third with twenty in June. A total of fifty-one different guests attended the trips in 1934, the largest numbers being eleven on the Point Bonita trip; nine to Berkeley in December and eight in January to Lake Merritt. Of these only three became interested enough to become members.

No member attended all the trips this year; two attending twelve of the trips; one, eight; four, seven; three, six; and ten, five. We would be pleased to have more members attending our field trips as they could assist the visitors who come, and it is through interesting these visitors that we increase our membership.

Joseph J. Webb, President.



### Disabled Gull Defies Starvation

During our visit to Lake Merritt, Oakland, January 13, 1935, some young people were throwing grain to a large flock of pigeons, among which were quite a number of English Sparrows also enjoying the feast.

Just outside this mass of greedy birds crowding each other in a mad race to get the grain stood a Glaucous-winged Gull with a broken wing. He looked very

forlorn, even desperate. He could not have competed with these smaller and livelier birds in picking up the tiny grains had he cared to; yet their presence seemed to anger him. On two occasions he crouched close to the ground and rushed at them. Each time the pigeons and sparrows rose in the air and then settled down again and resumed feeding. A third onslaught revealed his purpose. This time an unfortunate English Sparrow found himself between the gull's strong mandibles. There was just one bite to quiet the victim and one gulp and the unlucky sparrow was down feathers and all.

Gulls are known to devour the eggs and young of Cormorants and Murres and to kill and eat disabled Sandpipers, Phalaropes and other small species, but I believe preying upon land birds is rare with them. In this instance the gull being no longer able to fly and obtain his customary supply of food was, doubtless, prompted to the act by acute hunger, and the sparrow having no fear of gulls and therefore being off his guard was an easy victim.

Albert B. Stephens, San Francisco, California.



### Treasurer's Report for 1934

#### Commercial Account:

Balance January 2, 1934.....	\$101.85
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#### Receipts:

Dues for the year 1934.....	\$257.00	
Dues for the year 1935.....	12.00	
Dues for the year 1936.....	3.00	
Subscriptions to "The Gull," 1932-33.....	2.00	
Subscription to "The Gull," 1934.....	5.00	
Subscription to "The Gull," 1935.....	2.00	
Sales of "Birds of Marin County".....	34.75	
Sale of National Audubon Societies leaflet.....	.10	
Withdrawal from Savings Account.....	90.00	405.85
		<u>\$507.70</u>

#### Expenditures:

Publishing "The Gull".....	\$216.00	
Envelopes and stamps.....	44.51	
New trade mark.....	4.00	
"Birds of Marin County".....	92.50	
Deposit in Savings Account.....	35.00	
National Audubon leaflets.....	.55	
Dinner money for guests.....	2.45	
Janitor's Christmas gift.....	5.00	
Post cards.....	.20	
Sales tax.....	7.90	
Federal tax.....	.26	
	<u>408.37</u>	
Balance in Commercial Account.....	99.33	\$507.70

#### Savings Account:

Balance January 2, 1934.....	\$573.19	
Withdrawal 1934.....	90.00	\$483.19
	<u>\$ 35.00</u>	
Deposit in 1934.....		
Interest for 1934.....	13.85	48.85
		<u>\$532.04</u>

#### Total Accounts:

Commercial Account.....	\$ 99.33	
Savings Account.....	532.04	\$631.37

Memberships: Honorary, 10; Life, 11; Active, 104; total, 125. Subscribers, 5.  
Checked and approved: Carl R. Smith. Laura A. Stephens, Treasurer.

## Audubon Notes

**February Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 14th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Brighton C. Cain, whose subject will be "Bird Adventures in Central America."



**Directors' Meeting:** There will be a meeting of the Directors preceding the regular meeting at 7 o'clock in room 714, 245 Market Street.



**February Field Trip** will be taken to Burlingame on Sunday, the 17th. Meet at stage depot, Fifth near Mission Street, San Francisco, to take bus at 8:55 a. m., leaving the bus at Easton Drive, where party will form at 10 o'clock.

East Bay members should reach Ferry not later than 8:30, taking car up Market to Fifth Street. Bring luncheon. Leader, Chas. A. Bryant.



**1935 Dues:** The annual dues for the year are now payable. Your prompt attention to this matter makes it possible for "The Gull" to come to you each month.



**Congratulations** are extended to Director and Mrs. Frank A. Roberts upon the arrival of a daughter, Christie Henneman, on January 29, 1935.



**Observations:** The following observations were received by mail:

Mrs. Courtright: January 28th, a Mocking Bird in Larkspur for the last two weeks.

Marshall Jencks: July 3, 1934, at Tyron, a mile south of Monte Rio, a Pygmy Owl on a stake at 10 o'clock in the morning; September 29th, a Mocking Bird singing in Oakland; January

17th, a Yellow-billed Magpie in his yard in Oakland.



**January Meeting:** The 18th annual and the 210th regular meeting was held on January 10th, room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-two members present.

The Officers and Directors proposed by the nominating committee as given in the January "Gull" were unanimously elected.

The following observations were reported:

Fritz Lippmann: December 18th, Stow Lake, White-winged Scoter; 19th, Chain of Lakes, Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Creeper; 21st, San Francisco, Say Phoebe; 24th, four Shrikes.

Commander Parmenter: January 3rd, Crystal Springs Lake, 300± Canada Geese; December 31st, Tomales Bay, Old Squaw Duck; January 3rd, southern end of Sunset Boulevard overlooking Lake Merced, Glaucous Gull, one.

Mr. Rodney Ellsworth was speaker of the evening. He told of his work in preparing a history of the Big Trees to be a permanent exhibit in the Museums of the National Parks. He showed colored drawings of the tallest and largest of each species of Sequoia, drawn to scale. He also exhibited a colored crayon portrait of John Marshall Wooster, who according to Mr. Ellsworth's researches was the first man to describe and record the Sequoia gigantea.

A man named Whitehead had a mining claim near the town of Volcano, northwest of San Andreas. In attempting to locate Whitehead, in June, 1850, Wooster came upon a tree larger than any he had ever seen. He recorded in his diary the finding of the tree and wrote to the Sacramento "Transcript" on July 2, 1850, of this discovery.

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## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....	1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Subscription to monthly Bulletin, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.